



Feb./Mar. 2008

Volume 17 No. 2

Swing Time!

Official Newsletter,
South Florida Swing Dance Society

BOARD MEETING: First Tuesday of each month, 7:30pm to 9:00pm, contact any Board Member for location. **EVERYONE WELCOME**

Member Profile – Jan Avena

Jan Avena was born in Long Island, NY. She was raised in a bilingual Italian household although she was not taught the language. She moved to Florida when she was 12 and got involved with dance as a teenager. She took Ballet, Modern Dance, Jazz and was involved in dance productions. In the 70's, she was a big part of the Disco scene i.e. hustle, partnering with two dance partners, she competed socially for money at many well known local clubs.

Sometime in her dance path she came across a man named Jim Forrest who took an interest in her and gave her an opportunity to train with him and make dance videos. Recently she found out that he became very well known in the dance community.

Later Jan studied with Arthur Murray and Starlight Ballroom as a beginning teacher. She enjoyed performing and went on to perform at local charities and other events.

Although dancing was very important to her, she discovered in college that she had an acting ability and soon found out that she would be cast in comedy roles. Jan craved the attention of the audience and graduated with an AA Degree in the arts. She moved on to pursue Training/Personnel/Management career, and was moving up quickly in the corporate world when she decided to give it up to raise a family.

Jan stayed at home for 12 years, giving up her career and dancing, to raise her five beautiful children. After a devastating divorce in 2003, and prior to that losing her Mom and Dad and the rest of her immediate family, she made up her mind to get back to her career and pursue her love of dance.



"It was really hard. I couldn't remember one step. I was always on the brink of tears many days", Jan said. She started as a beginner, training on the basics and hit the country arena full force pushing, despite any obstacle that came in her way, and there were many.

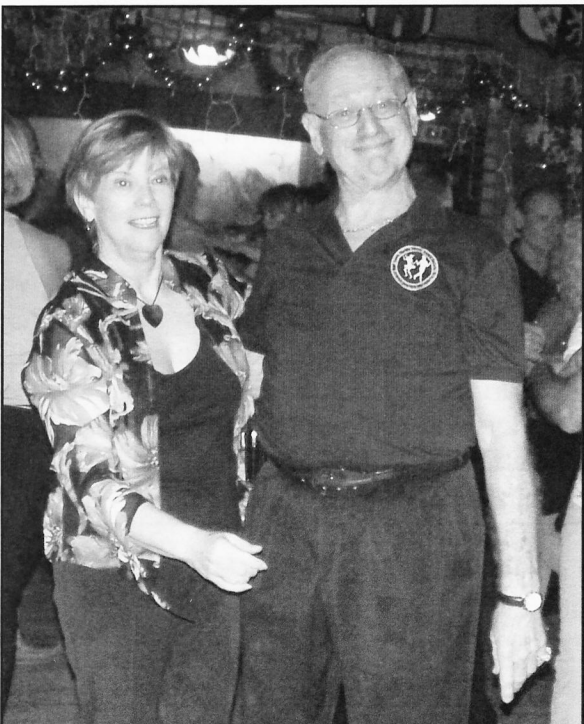
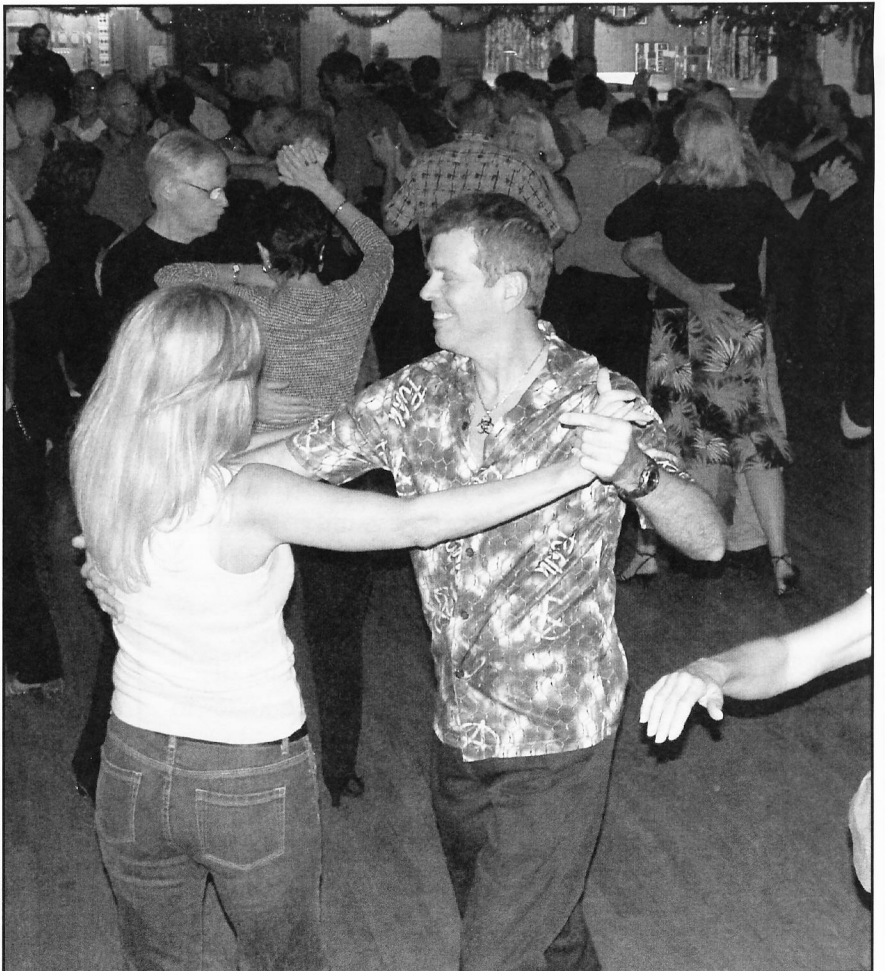
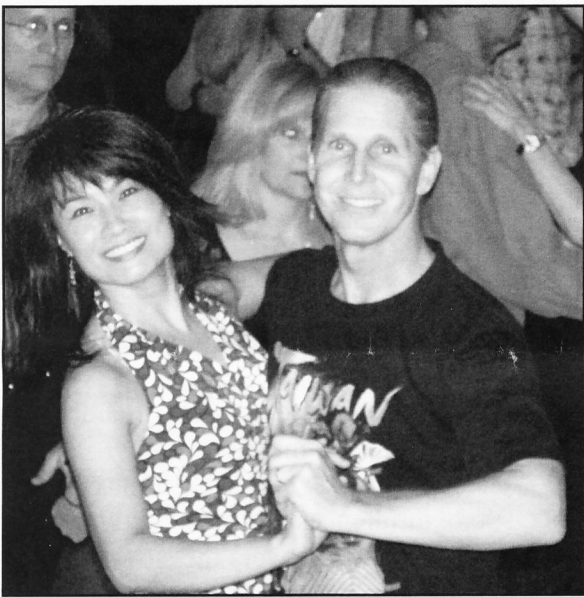
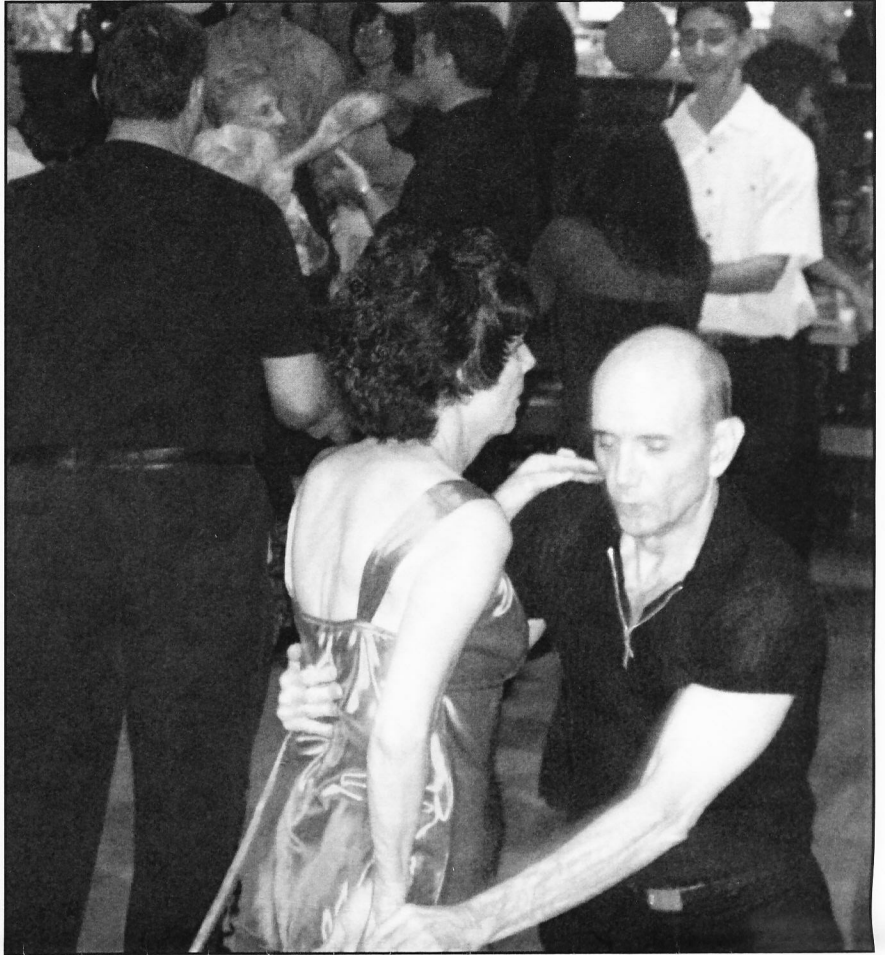
After achieving her goal in 2004, first place wins in the dances of polka, cha-cha, two-step, west coast swing, nightclub two, waltz and east coast swing with her Pro Shawn Swaithes, she decided to pursue ballroom and is now training and competing with Lee Fox, a renowned ballroom judge and dancer.

Jan just competed with Lee in Miami Beach last October and danced with him in the December Holiday Showcase at Goldcoast putting her new routines in

Quickstep and Bolero on the floor. Her goals for 2008 are to train hard in American Rhythm and American Smooth and learn some international and enter more competitions in the open silver division. She hopes someday to have a partner that will compete with her.

Jan is an Account Executive for Employment Resources in Miami Lakes, a staffing company committed to excellence in the workplace. Having won many prestigious awards, her female boss, the president, has exceeded excellence. The company promotes diversity in the workforce and Jan is searching for potential clients in the dance community that are looking to staff their offices.

In conclusion, Jan said, "I believe that anything can be achieved in life no matter how old you are and no matter what obstacle comes your way. Dance your way through it! I did! You can do it too! Happy Dancing. I'll see you on the competition floor!"





South Florida Swing Dance Society

P.O. Box 81-4147

Hollywood, FL 33081-4147

Email: swingdance@mindspring.com

Web Site: www.sfsds.com

Club Dances

February 16th

Intermediate Dance Workshop:

Joey Cecio and Chrissy Elwonger 7:30 PM
(How to roll between dances in the same song)

DJ: Vicki Kay 8:30 PM to 12:30 AM

March 15th

Chris Hemmer, WCS: 7:30 PM

"Welcome back to WCS"

DJ: Vicki Kay 8:30 PM to 12:30 AM

Dance location:

German American Club

6401 Washington Street, Hollywood, FL

Directions: From Florida's Turnpike: exit at Hollywood Boulevard. Go east to 62nd Avenue, turn right. Continue on 62nd Avenue to Washington Street. Turn right on Washington Street, continue to the end. The club is at the end of the street. (Distance from the Turnpike is approximately three quarters of a mile.)

CLUB OFFICERS

President	Rodney Tison	954-815-0505
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BOARD MEMBERS

Susan Marks	954-435-8990
susanmldance@yahoo.com	
George Peroni	305-696-2504
Caroline Turner	305-651-4494

COMMITTEES and Volunteer Functions

Social/Dance/Activities	Susan Marks
Telephone (Miami-Dade)	Caroline Turner
Telephone (Broward)	Judi Holland
Pub. & Advertising	Joan Handelsman
Newsletter	Rodney Tison
Nomination	Assigned
By-Laws and Ethics	As Required
Web Site	David Luchin
E-Mail	David Luchin
Photos this issue	Rodney Tison
	Judi Holland

The President's Corner...

SFSDS dances are rolling along...

The SFSDS dance at the German American Club has averaged 155 for the past 13 months. This was helped by the 211 in December and 200 people who attended in January. The numbers have increased for several reasons...good music...good floating dance floor (it's not slippery anymore)...spreading the word to other clubs about the venue, etc. The board is striving to keep these numbers up. We have some new wrinkles coming that haven't been finalized by press time so watch for advertisements.

Kyle Redd and Sarah Vann Drake taught some good moves at the December dance. As an added touch, after the lessons, they let the students line up to dance with them for a few songs.

Cindy-Lee Overton taught a well-received Intermediate lesson at the January dance.

We will be bringing in other quality Instructors in as well. For the February 16th dance, Joey Cecio and Chrissy Elwonger will be teaching "How to roll between dances in the same song" Dj duties will be handled by Vicki Fearon.



For the March 15th dance none other than Christopher Hemmer will be teaching his "Welcome back to WCS" lesson. Dj will be Vicki Fearon.

We have 176 members signed up so far this year. We ended last year with 220 so there are still some renewals that have not signed up yet.

We have been drawing dancers from different places. In December, Events and Adventures singles club brought 31 people. The west coast is always well represented by Dee Bricher and her group, Jim and Donna Graham as well. Cindy-Lee Overton brought some of her students across the alley with her. Some people have made the drive up from the FL Keys. And last dance we had a group make the drive down from Melbourne. Now, where are the people from the Bahamas?

Rodney



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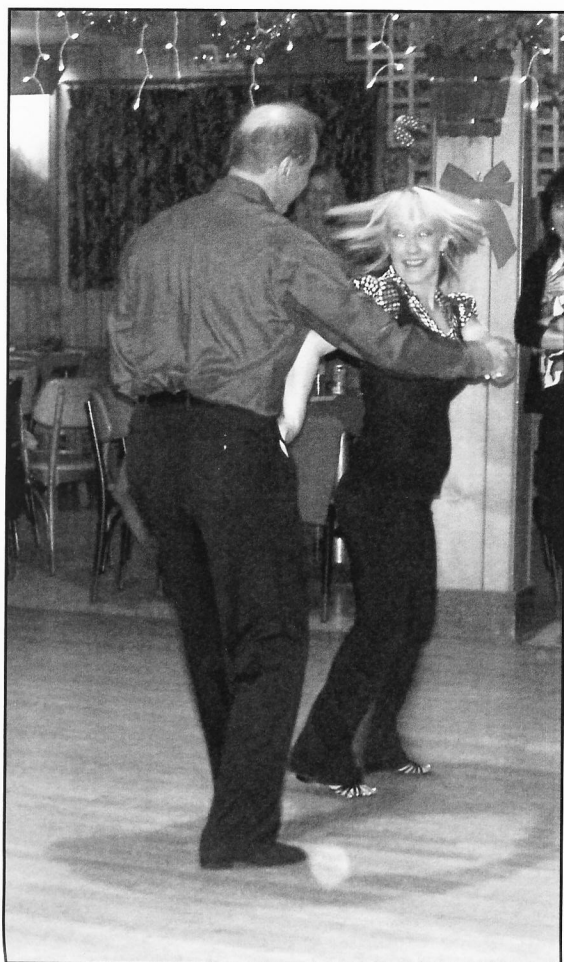
Reiki

For Appointments Call

954-547-5894

or email graziacandiano@yahoo.com

SFSDS Members \$5 off



Sarah Vann Drake and Kyle Redd danced with the students after the workshops at the December dance. Elizabeth Ackerly, pictured far right, also won the \$40 member attendance door prize at the January dance.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION – The South Florida Swing Dance Society, Inc.

2008 Membership dues are \$30.00 from January 1, 2008, and expire December 31, 2008.

See www.sfsds.com for member benefits.

Name _____ Date _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Birthday _____ Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Work Phone _____ Occupation _____

☐ Add me to ☐ Continue me on ☐ Delete me from the club's weekly email "Update & Dance Notes" list

Email address _____

Please consider one or two committees you would be willing to volunteer for:

- ☐ Membership ☐ Newsletter ☐ Publicity ☐ Telephone ☐ Host/Hostess ☐ Door/Admissions
☐ Clean-up ☐ Social ☐ Advertising ☐ Web Site ☐ Email ☐ Other _____

The South Florida Swing Dance Society, Inc. (SFSDS) is a nonprofit organization of volunteers operating through committees that do the work of the corporation.

In consideration of the mutual benefits derived from SFSDS, and acknowledging that an injury may occur while dancing, the undersigned does hereby assume all risk and absolves and waives any and all liability claims against SFSDS, the Hollywood German American Club, both organizations' officers, board members and each and every member thereof which may arise out of an act related to an injury.

Signature _____ Amount Paid _____

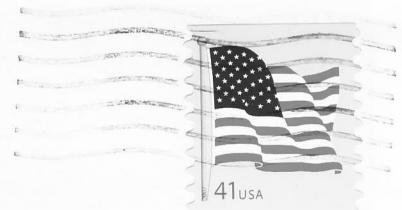
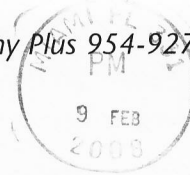
Make check payable to: The South Florida Swing Dance Society, Inc. P.O. Box 81-4147, Hollywood, FL 33081-4147



We welcome the folks from Melbourne who ventured down the state to attend our January dance.

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Swing Time!

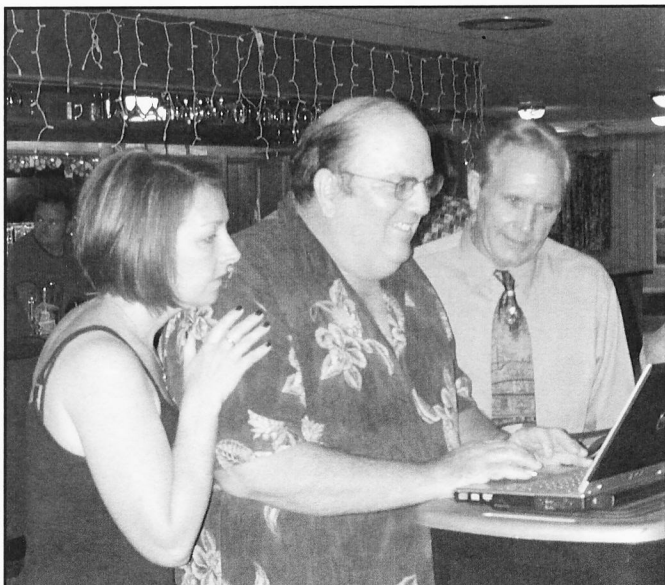


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PO Box 81-4147, Hollywood, FL 33081-4147

Website: www.sfsds.com

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



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